

Corps will Reduce Missouri River Water Releases

Washington, DC (August 5) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will reduce flows on the Missouri River Mainstem System beginning 10 p.m. EDT, August 12 to meet a U.S. District Court ruling issued on August 4, 2003.

Judge Paul A. Magnuson of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, left in place an injunction issued July 12 by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia requiring the Corps to reduce flows on the Missouri River. However, Judge Magnuson continued to stay the DC Court contempt order.

The Department of Justice will seek a stay of this order with Judge Magnuson Wednesday. In the absence of further relief from the court, the Corps intends to comply with the court order as soon as possible, consistent with safety requirements.

Effective at 10 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, August 12, 2003, releases from Gavins Point will be 21,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) until August 15, 2003. In the absence of further relief from the court, all commercial and recreational river users downstream from Gavins Point should take appropriate actions to secure commercial and recreational vessels and related facilities as it is anticipated that the above releases will not be sufficient to maintain sufficient flows for navigation from Sioux City, Iowa to St. Louis, Missouri, a distance of 732 miles,

On August 15, 2003, Gavins Point releases will be increased to 25,000 cfs until September 1, 2003. Beginning September 1, 2003, the Mainstem system will be operated in accordance with the 2003 Annual Operating Plan.